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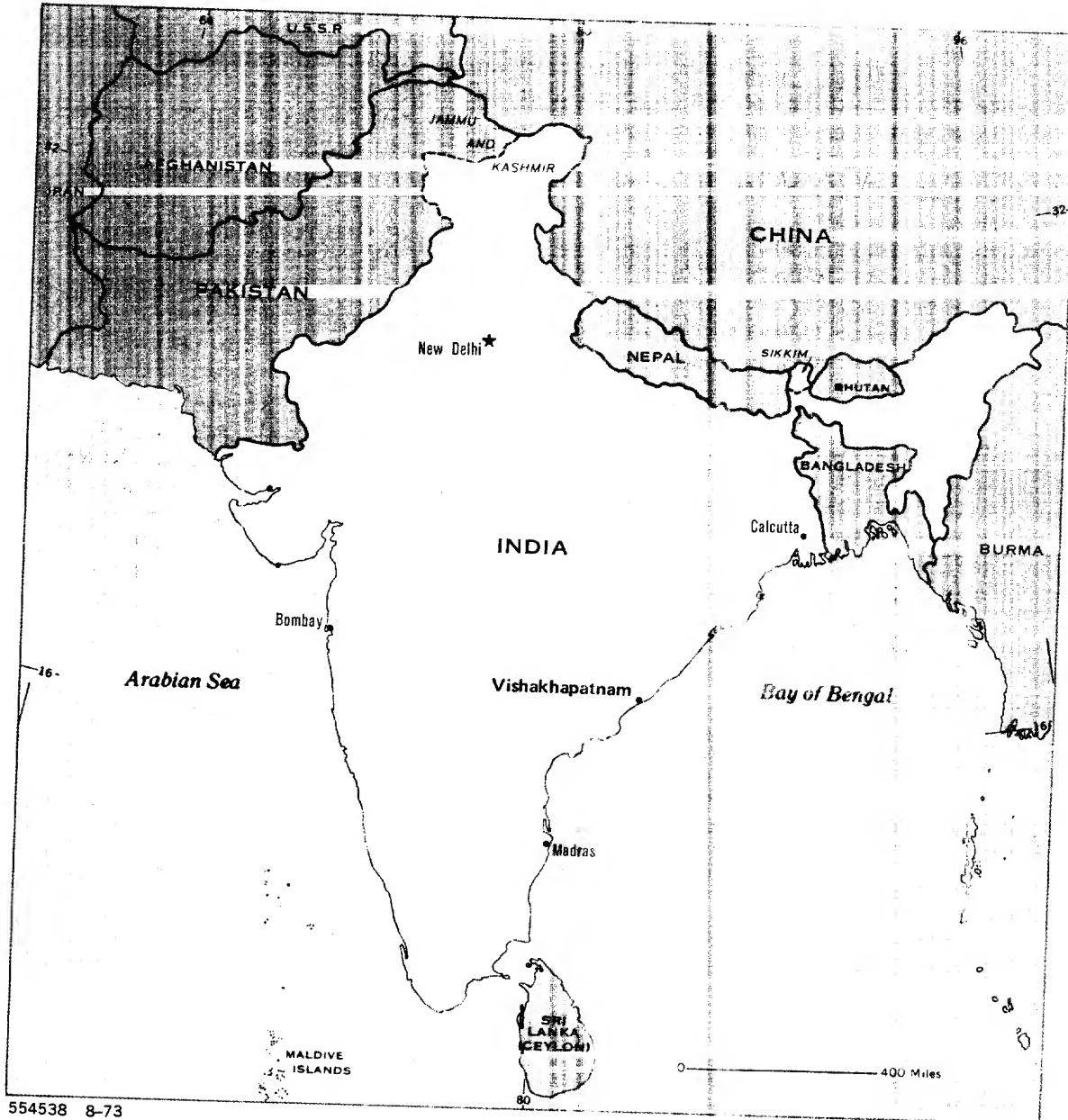
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SOUTH VIETNAM: The Communists attacked government defenses west and south of Hue yesterday with the heaviest artillery and mortar barrages since the June reaffirmation of the cease-fire agreement. The attacks apparently were intended to discourage government efforts to strengthen its defenses in the area. South Vietnamese troops have been attempting to secure mountaintop observation posts that overlook Communist infiltration routes, and engineering units have been trying to get all-weather roads to the posts built before the monsoon rains start in October.

The Communists have been harassing the operations all along, but they may now feel that stronger efforts should be made. Although a government spokesman has been quoted by the press as saying that the shellings may be the prelude to a major Communist military campaign, there is no evidence to suggest that North Vietnamese units in the area are preparing to go on the attack against Hue.



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INDIA-USSR: The Indian Navy with Soviet assistance has almost completed construction of a major training facility at Vishakhapatnam. The facility, modeled after a Soviet training center at Vladivostok, will provide New Delhi with an indigenous capability to train personnel on Soviet-supplied Petya-class escorts and F-class submarines.

The Vishakhapatnam project, which has been under construction with Soviet help since 1968, consists of three complexes--a naval base, a dockyard, and the training facility. The completion of the training facility will eliminate the need for training Indians on Petyas and F-class submarines in the Soviet Union.

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CHINA: A large, three-day gathering held in Peking last week apparently was not a major party conclave, but may have been a national congress of the Young Communist League (YCL).

The meetings that began on 17 August were too large and too brief for a national party congress. Moreover, a number of provincial leaders who would normally participate in such a major conclave, including one member of the Politburo, apparently did not attend the gathering last week. The large meetings coincided with the anniversary on 18 August of the Red Guards, the youth group that came to prominence during the Cultural Revolution, but that has since been shunted aside by the YCL. The YCL is the only mass organization to be reconstructed in each of China's 29 provinces, and a national congress would be the logical completion of its rebuilding process.

Meanwhile, preparations for a Central Committee plenum and the party congress apparently are continuing. Smaller high-level meetings that began several weeks ago are still being held nightly at Peking's Great Hall of the People. Mao probably attended one session on 11 August. [redacted]

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Yugoslavia-USSR: The Soviet Embassy in Belgrade is preparing for a visit to Yugoslavia by Premier Kosygin in late September or early October. According to a Soviet diplomat in Belgrade, Kosygin will probably stay for "a week or so," including several days on vacation.

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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